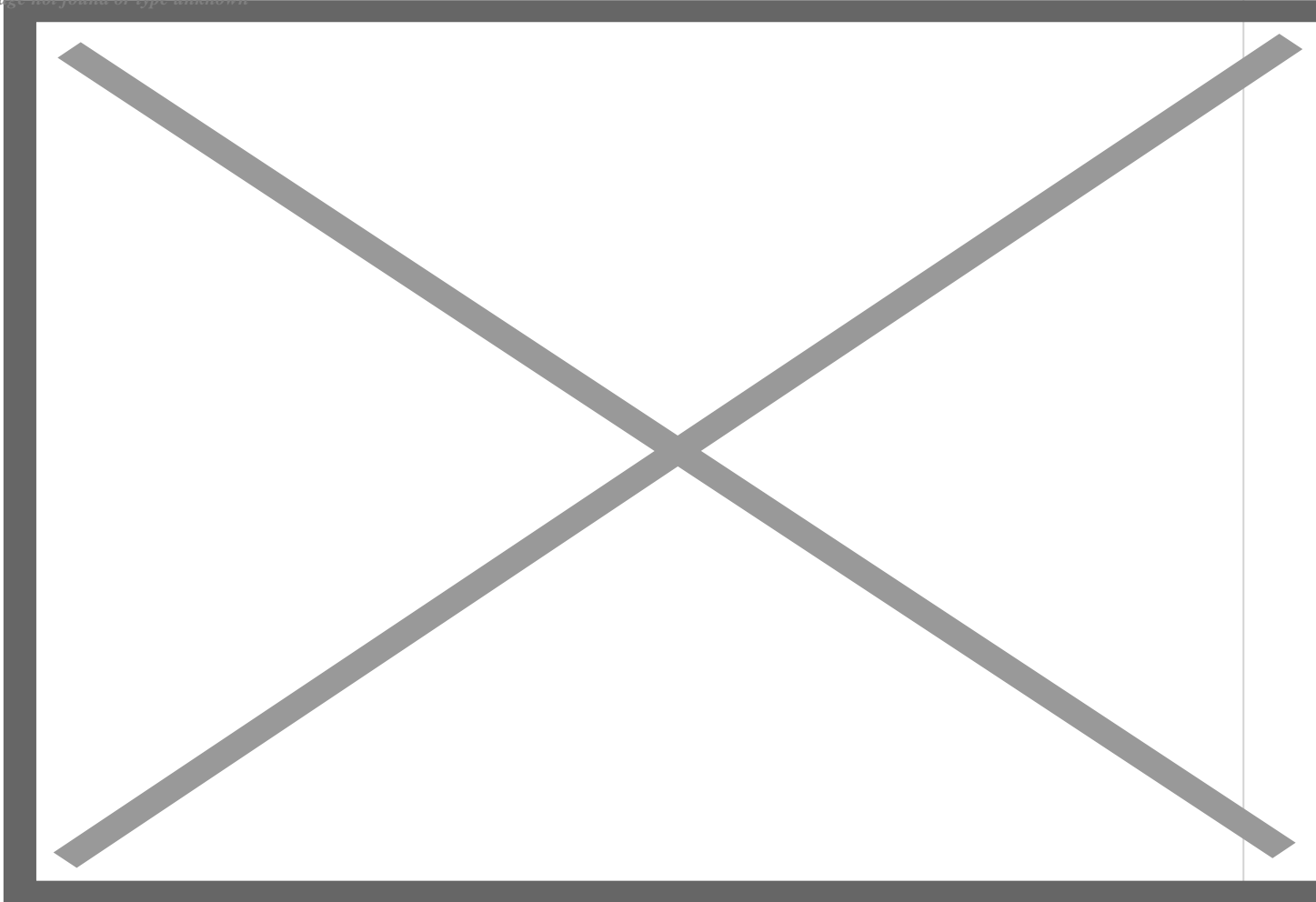


Germany finds hundreds of Nazi-linked staff in security agencies

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People take part in a counterprotest against a neo-Nazi march in Dresden [File: Bundas Engler/EPA]

Berlin, May 14 (RHC)-- Over a three-year period, 327 employees of Germany's federal and state security authorities have been found to have links to right-wing extremism.

The figures are from the Federal Ministry of the Interior's situation report on right-wing extremism in the security agencies, due to be published on Friday and seen by the DPA news agency. The report looks at July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021 and observes, for example, participation in extremist events or Nazi "Heil

Hitler” chants.

The information was compiled by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution, Germany’s domestic intelligence service.

The office said there were numerous connections between the employees classified as “right-wing extremists” to “extremist actors and parties”, as well as hooligan and martial arts scene organisations classified as “right-wing extremist subcultures”.

A total of 860 staff were reviewed during the survey period. Preconditions for further intelligence processing were met in 38 percent of those cases.

The employees identified as “right-wing extremists” included 83 people in military counterintelligence, a service with about 242,000 army and civilian employees and 18 in the federal police, which employs more than 54,000.

Four were found in customs, two at the Federal Criminal Police Office, and one each in the German domestic intelligence services, the Bundesnachrichtendienst foreign intelligence service and the German parliament police.

An additional 30 people were suspected or proven to be linked to the “Reichsbürger” movement. Followers of this movement reject the authority of the state and often refuse to pay taxes.

German security authorities most recently counted about 19,000 people as involved in the movement.

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